

Persuasive Writing

Yes, Skateboarding

1 New signs have sprung up along the sidewalks and parking lots
2 of Bloomington. Do these signs protest war? Do they tell kids to stay
3 off drugs? No, they tell kids to stay off skateboards. The city council
4 wants to “take back” the downtown, so they have created laws and
5 fines to end skateboarding. However, skateboarding is not the cause
6 of the problems downtown, and outlawing it may do more harm than
7 good.

8 First of all, skateboarding has many benefits. It provides
9 exercise for kids who might otherwise sit around all day watching TV.
10 Skateboarding also helps kids be social. Too many teenagers spend
11 hours alone surfing the Internet, but skateboarding gets them out of
12 their homes and into groups of friends. Take away skateboards, and
13 more kids will be out of shape, lonely, and bored. That’s a recipe for
14 real trouble.

15 The ban on skateboarding also tells teenagers that the city
16 disrespects them. Some adults think any group of teenagers is a gang.
17 The truth is that if kids are together on skateboards, they’re almost
18 certainly not a gang. By outlawing skateboards, the city pushes
19 teenagers toward more destructive activities.

20 The most important reason to end the ban, though, is that

21 skateboarding isn't the cause of the big problems downtown.
22 Abandoned buildings, graffiti, crime, and substance abuse aren't
23 caused by kids on skateboards. Malls kill city centers, not kids doing
24 grinds on bridges. Instead of policing skateboarders, the city should
25 crack down on gangs and slum lords.

26 Of course, the city council argues that skateboarders cause
27 damage to handrails and benches downtown. However, most
28 skateboarders don't damage public property, and those who do won't
29 be stopped by the new ban. Outlawing skateboarding just takes the
30 activity away from law-abiding kids.

31 Instead of making skateboarders outlaws, the city should make
32 them "in-laws" by creating a skateboard park. When the MacNamara
33 Building burned last year, the city had to tear it down. The property is
34 still for sale, right there in the middle of the decaying downtown. Why
35 not turn it into a skateboard park so riders have a home in our city?

36 When the city council put up "No Skateboarding" signs
37 everywhere, they wanted to "turn the city around." The best way
38 to turn the city around, though, is to put up "Yes, Skateboarding"
39 signs. A skateboard park downtown would give skateboarders a safe
40 place to practice this healthy group sport, and would give downtown
41 Bloomington a park to be proud of.

42